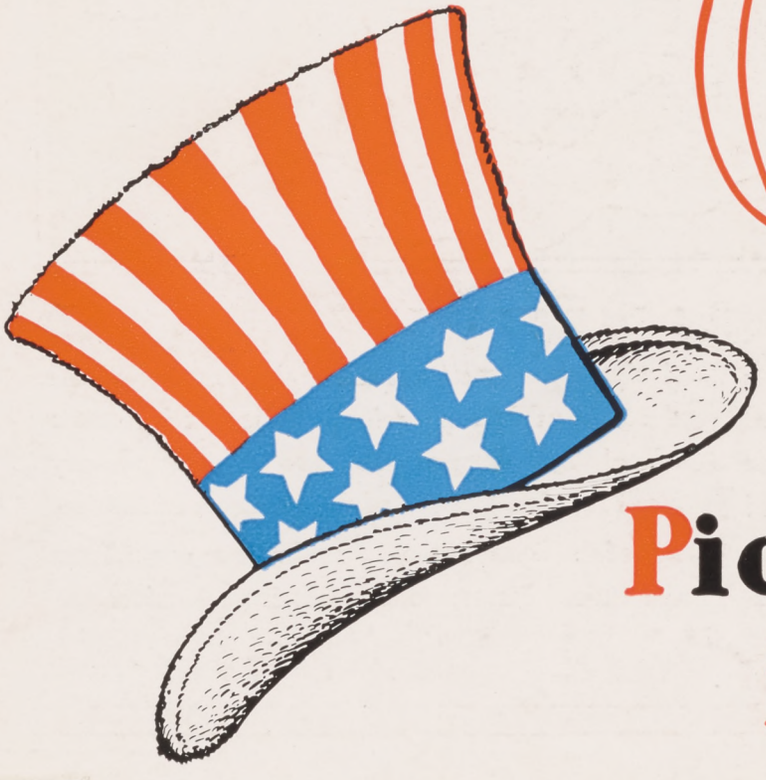
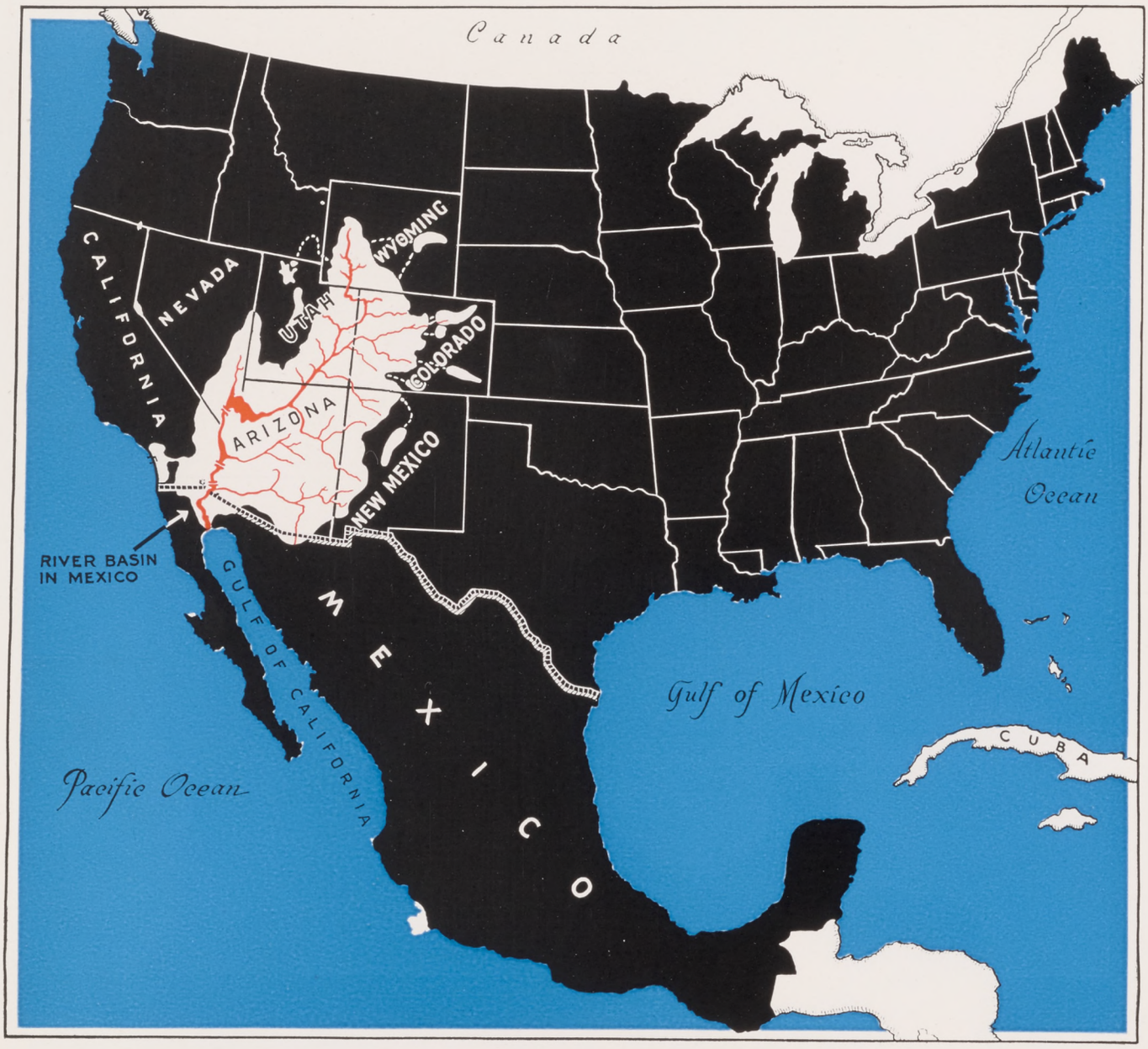
WHT
7

Mexican Treaty



Pictures & Maps in color

WHT 7



COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Shown in red is the Colorado River and its tributaries. In white is the large portion of the United States situated within the drainage and service basin of the Colorado River. It is an area of 250,000 square miles—1/13 the total area of the United States. Also shown in white is the relatively insignificant part of Mexico situated within the Colorado River drainage basin. It is an area of only 2,000 square miles and represents a very small fraction (1/382) of the total area of Mexico. All of the water in the Colorado River comes from the United States; none comes from Mexico.

Mexican Treaty

An Exposition of the Proposed Mexican Water Treaty in Maps, Illustrations and Text

California in its opposition to the proposed Mexican water treaty is in nowise attacking or criticizing the people or the Government of Mexico. For generations Californians have lived in harmony with and have admired and respected the people and the culture of Mexico. ¶Californians salute the statecraft of the official representatives of Mexico. It is for the United States adequately to match these statesmen of Mexico, and thus protect the legitimate rights and interests of the states, communities, and people of the United States.

Issued by

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Headquarters:

306 West Third Street • Los Angeles 13, California

Boulder Dam on the Colorado River, key structure on the river system. It is being paid for by a group of American communities, not by the United States taxpayers as a whole. These same communities vitally need the Colorado River water salvaged and stored by the dam and so freely given away for all time to Mexican landowners by the proposed Mexican water treaty.

QUESTIONS *and* ANSWERS

Q. With what does the Mexican treaty deal?

A. It deals with three North American rivers. They are the Rio Grande, the Tijuana, and the Colorado.

Q. Where is the Rio Grande?

A. Its main stream, for a distance of 1200 miles, forms the boundary between Texas in the United States and Mexico, and it has tributaries in both Mexico and the United States.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Rio Grande?

A. The treaty allocates to Texas one-half the water in the international boundary section of the river below Fort Quitman, of which about 70% comes from Mexico. In addition, Texas obtains one-third of the flow at the mouths of six Mexican tributaries, with a minimum guarantee of 350,000 acre feet a year. Texas retains the flow of the Pecos River and six other named tributaries draining areas in the United States.

Q. What will this water be used for in Texas?

A. Principally for the irrigation of grapefruit land (present and potential).

Q. Where is the Tijuana River?

A. It is a small stream flowing partly in the United States and partly in Mexico, and is situated near San Diego, California.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Tijuana?

A. It does nothing except to declare that Mexico and the United States agree at some future time to allocate its available water between the two countries.

Q. Where is the Colorado River?

A. Its main stream flows for 1700 miles within the United States and 50 miles in Mexico, where it empties into the Gulf of California. With its tributaries, it flows through or forms the boundaries of seven states of the Union, namely, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona and California.

Q. How important is the Colorado to the United States?

A. It is one of the major rivers of the United States, and the largest river in the Southwest. It is a vital water supply source for the states within its basin, and is the only water source for large areas in Nevada, Arizona and California. All the water in the Colorado River comes from the United States.

Q. How important is the Colorado River to Mexico?

A. Its importance to Mexico as a whole is insignificant. That part of Mexico within reach of its water is delta land which represents only a minute fraction of the total area of Mexico. Mexico has water resources from hundreds of other streams.

Q. What does the treaty do about the Colorado River?

A. It requires the United States to deliver a minimum of 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water annually to Mexican lands. It gives to Mexico a first priority ahead of long-established American water rights.

Q. What is an acre foot of water?

A. An acre foot of water equals about 330,000 gallons. The 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water which the treaty would give to Mexico each year is more water than the 7,500,000 people of Greater New York and the 2,000,000 people of Philadelphia use annually for all domestic and industrial purposes.

Q. What will this Colorado River water be used for in Mexico?

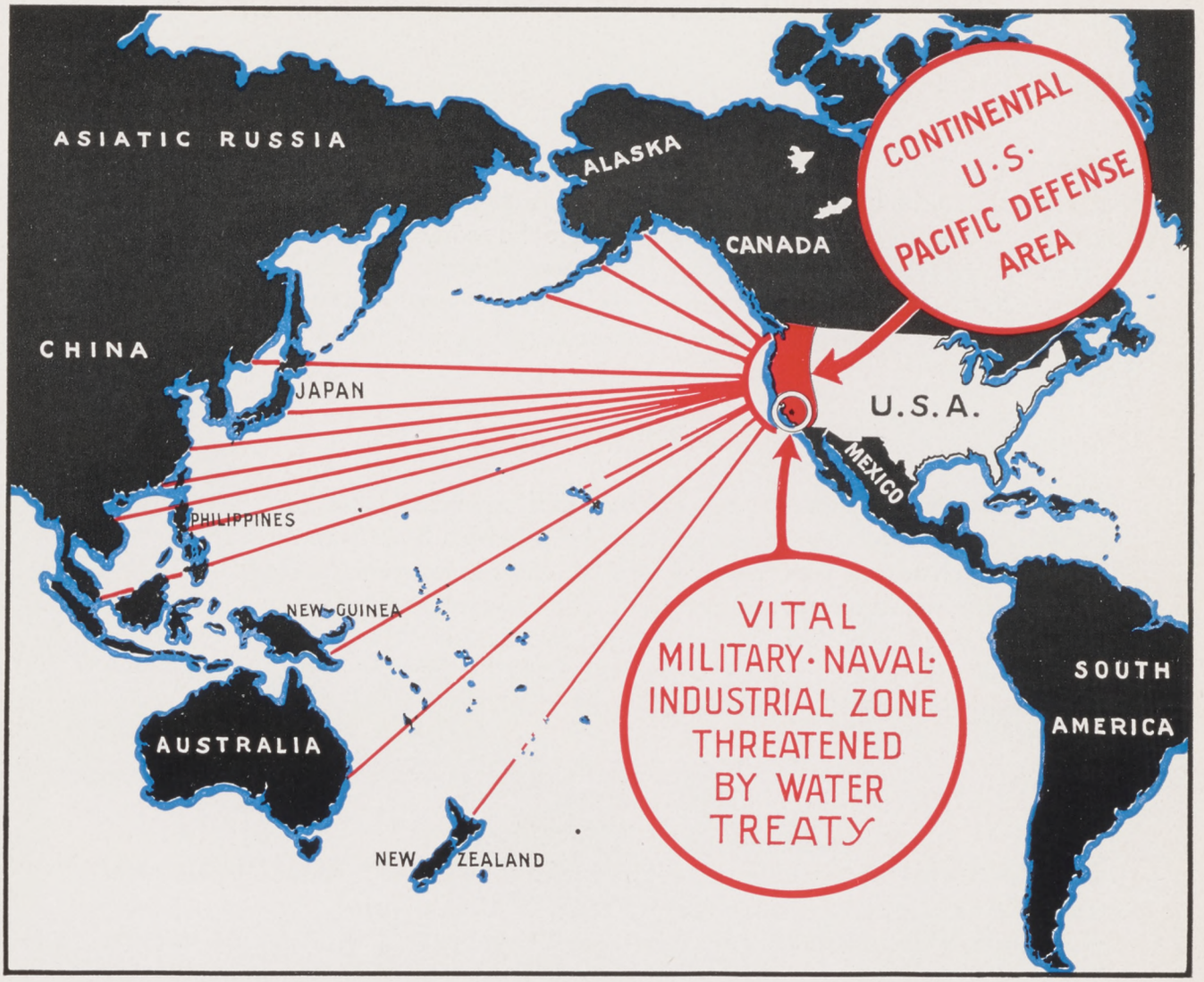
A. Principally for the raising of cotton.

WHY TREATY IS OPPOSED

Seeds of Conflict. Far from being in the interest of the Good Neighbor policy, the pending treaty, if ratified, will breed suspicion, jealousy and hatred. It will do this because it gives to Mexican lands Colorado River water needed in the United States. American farmers and city dwellers in the affected areas will be embittered by the prospect of water being taken from them to satisfy an unjust treaty. In turn, people in Mexico may be constantly fearful that the treaty water will not be delivered in full. The treaty plants hateful seeds of conflict between two friendly neighbors.

Labor Protests. Because the protection of United States labor summarily is set aside by the proposed Mexican treaty, it was opposed and denounced by unanimous vote of the American Federation of Labor at its convention in New Orleans on November 29, 1944. Organized labor had discovered that with regard to boundary sections of the Rio Grande and the Colorado rivers, the treaty contained this startling provision: "The whole of the personnel employed either directly or indirectly on the construction, operation or maintenance of the works may pass freely from one country to the other for the purpose of going to and from the place of location of the works, without any immigration restrictions, passports or labor requirements." The treaty thus provides that foreign labor may be employed without regard to immigration restrictions, American labor laws or wage scales in the construction and operation of vast river works on United States soil.

Out of Balance. In allocating the waters of the Rio Grande, the treaty recognized the fact that in southwestern rivers the quantity of water available varies from year to year. In the case of the Rio Grande, Texas (with a minimum of 350,000 acre feet annually from Mexican tributaries) is allotted certain percentages of the water which may be in the boundary section of the river below Fort Quitman and in the Mexican tributaries. Thus, the Texas allotment of Rio Grande water very largely is on a sliding scale basis. (See page 3) In the case of the Colorado River, a minimum of 1,500,000 acre feet annually is guaranteed to Mexico, and this is given top priority over all United States water rights.



VITAL SECTION UNDERMINED

A deadly blow will be struck at the heart of America's front on the Pacific if the pending Mexican water treaty is ratified. This is true because—

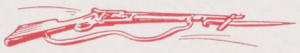
1. Southern California is an indispensable sector in America's front on the Pacific. Today this zone is supporting enormous and ever-expanding military and naval establishments. More than half of the industrial production for war in the entire Pacific coast area is centered in this zone. America's future security demands the strengthening, not the weakening, of this area within the United States.

2. Southern California is a semiarid region. It requires increasing quantities of Colorado River water to maintain its industries, population and military centers. Its communities have contracted with the United States Government for the Colorado River water so urgently needed.

3. If ratified, the pending treaty will require the United States freely and perpetually to give to Mexican lands Colorado River water needed to sustain a vital United States defense area.

WHY TREATY IS OPPOSED

Drought. The quantity of water flowing into the main stream of the Colorado River varies widely from year to year. Normally it is subject to frequent dry cycles. These recurring dry cycles cannot be considered as "extraordinary droughts" against which the treaty gives some slight protection. The proposed treaty ignores the normal variations and makes a flat minimum guarantee of 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water annually and for all time to Mexico.



War Veterans' Reward. Several hundred thousand acres of United States public land within the Colorado River basin which have been set aside for settlement by returning war veterans will be doomed to remain forever a desert waste if the pending treaty is ratified. The Government by Congressional legislation has given war veterans first rights to this land. But it can never be irrigated, and thus will be useless, if the full 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water is to be handed over annually to Mexican land operators.

Boulder Dam. It would be water salvaged and conserved by Boulder Dam that would be used to satisfy the treaty guarantee of Colorado River water deliveries to Mexico. The 1,500,000 acre feet annually guaranteed is twice the amount Mexico ever did or ever could use prior to the building of Boulder Dam. Boulder Dam, of course, was built on United States soil, by United States labor and money.

A Firm Compact. In the Congressional Act which in 1928 authorized construction of Boulder Dam, it is specifically provided that Colorado River water salvaged and stored by the dam be used "exclusively within the United States." The Boulder Canyon Project Act is not merely a statute subject to change or repeal. It is part of a compact between California and the United States. California expressly "in consideration of the passage" of the Project Act and in response to its requirements, contracted to limit its use of Colorado River water. The Project Act is therefore part of an outstanding compact. If ratified, the pending treaty will violate the provisions of the Boulder Canyon Project Act and the statutory compact with California.

ENDANGERED AREA

Colorado River Aqueduct of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Shown in red is the westerly portion of the aqueduct which delivers water to population and industrial centers and to vital military and naval installations on the Pacific Coastal Plain. The Metropolitan Water District area includes the fourteen cities named on the map.

Permanent delivery by the United States Government of Colorado River water into the aqueduct system is provided for in contracts and compacts between the Government and the Metropolitan Water District.

From the Colorado River in the United States, the proposed treaty would give each year, and for all time, to Mexican landowners more water than is being used by the people of Greater New York and Philadelphia for all domestic and industrial purposes. In doing this, the treaty threatens and invades the established water rights of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and many other sections of the United States.

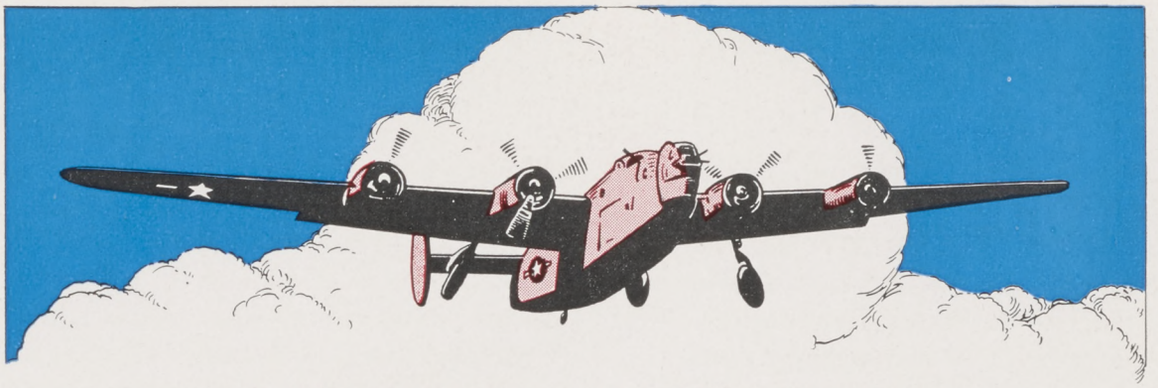
WHY TREATY IS OPPOSED

Broken Pledges. Ratification of the pending treaty will force the United States Government to the ignoble act of welching on long-standing contracts with its own states and communities. By contracts and agreements the United States has pledged itself to deliver certain quantities of Colorado River water to various states and communities within the river's basin. But there is not enough water available in the river to enable the United States in years of low river flow to make good on these contracts and at the same time perpetually guarantee to Mexican lands 1,500,000 acre feet of water annually.

America Comes Second. The treaty gives to Mexican lands a top priority to the waters of the Colorado River and leaves American communities with a secondary right. In the event of a water shortage, communities in the United States would be forced to yield to the superior treaty rights of the Mexican landowners. And yet, all of the water thus guaranteed to Mexico originates and is conserved within the United States; none originates in Mexico.

Free Benefits to Mexico. Freely given to the Mexican landowners by Boulder Dam are flood protection and a regulated river flow into Mexico, desilted and of much improved quality. But Congress sixteen years ago, in adopting the Boulder Canyon Project Act, gave the Mexican landowners public notice that they could not in future years rightfully claim large additional quantities of water made available solely by Boulder Dam storage.

Congress is Excluded. If ratified the pending treaty will set up in perpetuity and beyond the recall or control of Congress a two-man International Boundary and Water Commission, with one man from the United States and one from Mexico. The U. S. Commissioner is accountable only to the Secretary of State and the President, and once the treaty is ratified Congress will be shorn of all power to review or reject the policies, projects and expenditures of the Commissioner. Congress must either appropriate the funds demanded by the Commissioner, or refuse and thereby breach the treaty.



A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

"An impending emergency in the water supply of San Diego, California, has been called to my attention. Owing to the very large naval, other military, war industrial, and war housing installations in the area, the situation is of emergency importance to the Federal Government."

Thus spoke President Roosevelt on November 29, 1944, in a letter to the Vice President. (Senate Document No. 249, 78th Congress, 2nd Session.)

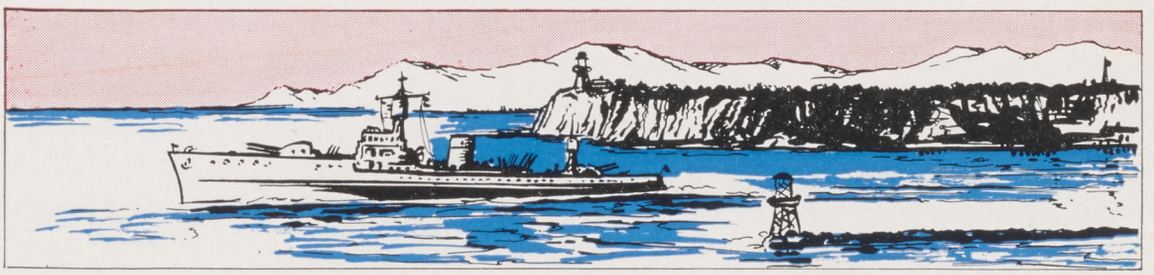
The President informed the Vice President that he had instructed that the emergency be met by the prompt construction of a water supply line to deliver Colorado River water into the San Diego area by way of a connection with the Colorado River Aqueduct of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. To cover the cost, $17,500,000 of Federal funds are to be supplied.

The Government expects the cost of taking over and maintaining the water supply system on a permanent basis will be an obligation of the people of San Diego and neighboring communities.

Here is dramatic and significant recognition of the vital need for additional Colorado River water to support and maintain a sector of America's front on the Pacific. And San Diego is only a part of the southern California area dependent upon an increasing water supply from the Colorado River.

Within the San Diego area is a great concentration of Army, Navy and Marine Corps installations. In addition, centered in this zone are enormous aircraft and other essential industries. The President's interdepartmental committee which recommended the construction of the aqueduct for the protection of this strategic spot stated that the population of the San Diego area had increased from about 200,000 in 1940 to 450,000 in 1944.

The President's proposal implies that a dependable supply of Colorado River water required for this vital defense area will be available to San Diego and vicinity. True, the city and county of San Diego hold a contract with the United States for 112,000 acre feet per year of Colorado River water. But the pending Mexican treaty ignores and overrides this contract and the water rights of San Diego city and county as it does the rights of many other American communities.

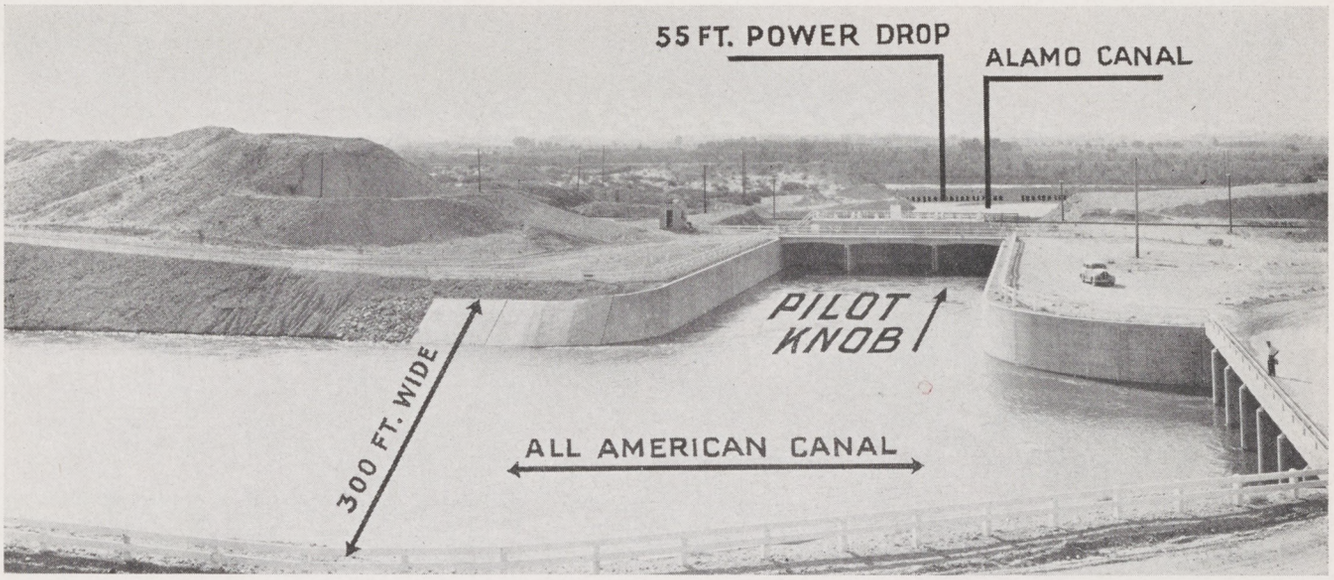


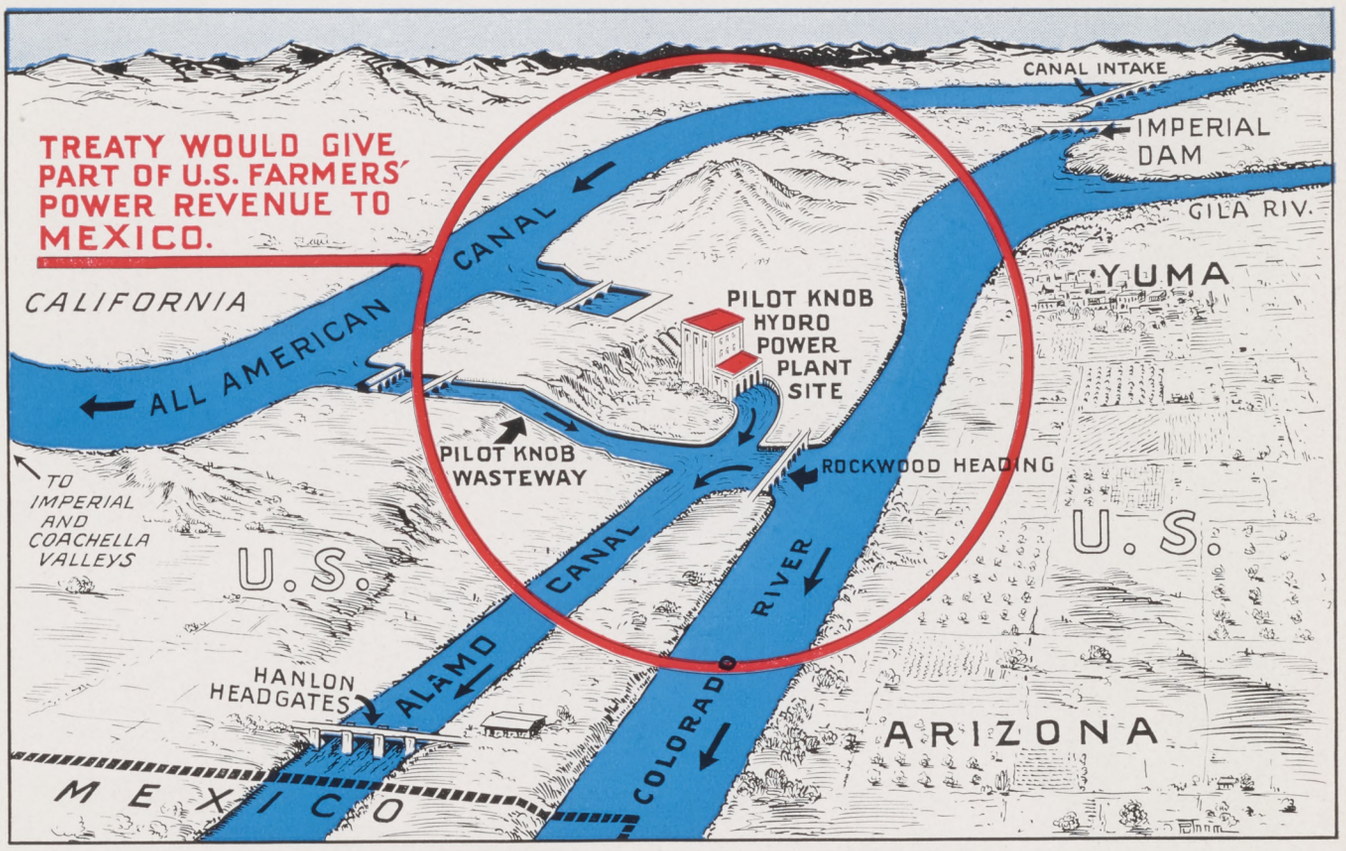
WHY TREATY IS OPPOSED

Dictatorial Powers. If ratified, the pending treaty will set up a one-man administration with practically unlimited power and with authority to impose on the United States the spending of vast sums of money in line with whatever philosophy of government or foreign policy may be dictated by any Secretary of State in all the years to come. Under the terms of the treaty the Commissioner dictates what works are to be built, operated and maintained. The Protocol of November 14, 1944, does not cure these evils. Its effect is that works only partly used for performance of treaty stipulations may be handled by Federal agencies other than the Commission, but always in conformity with the treaty as construed by the Commission.

Another Gift. The proposed treaty would take hydroelectric power revenues from United States farmers and give this money to Mexico for the benefit of Mexican landowners. These power revenues will be a part of the money derived from the sale of power to be generated along the All American Canal in California. (This canal delivers Colorado River water to farms in the Imperial and Coachella valleys in southeastern California.) Under the terms of the Boulder Canyon Project Act and contracts between the farmers and the United States Government, the power rights on the All American Canal belong to the farmers of Imperial and Coachella valleys. One of these power sites is the Pilot Knob wasteway. The treaty specifically gives a part of the Pilot Knob power revenues to Mexico. This despite the fact that the Pilot Knob site is entirely within the United States and belongs to American farmers. The Colorado River water to be used to generate the power will come entirely from the United States.

A Flood Menace. Large areas of land in the United States will be subjected to a serious and permanent flood menace if the pending treaty is ratified. This is true because the treaty provides that there shall be built a dam or weir across the Colorado River at a point below the California boundary. The purpose of the dam is to raise the level of the river for irrigation benefits to Mexican lands. But the river water thus raised will be above the level of highly developed agricultural areas in the United States and will subject them to damages from constant seepage and the hazards of devastating floods. Such a dam or weir is now forbidden by an existing treaty with Mexico, and by a United States court order.

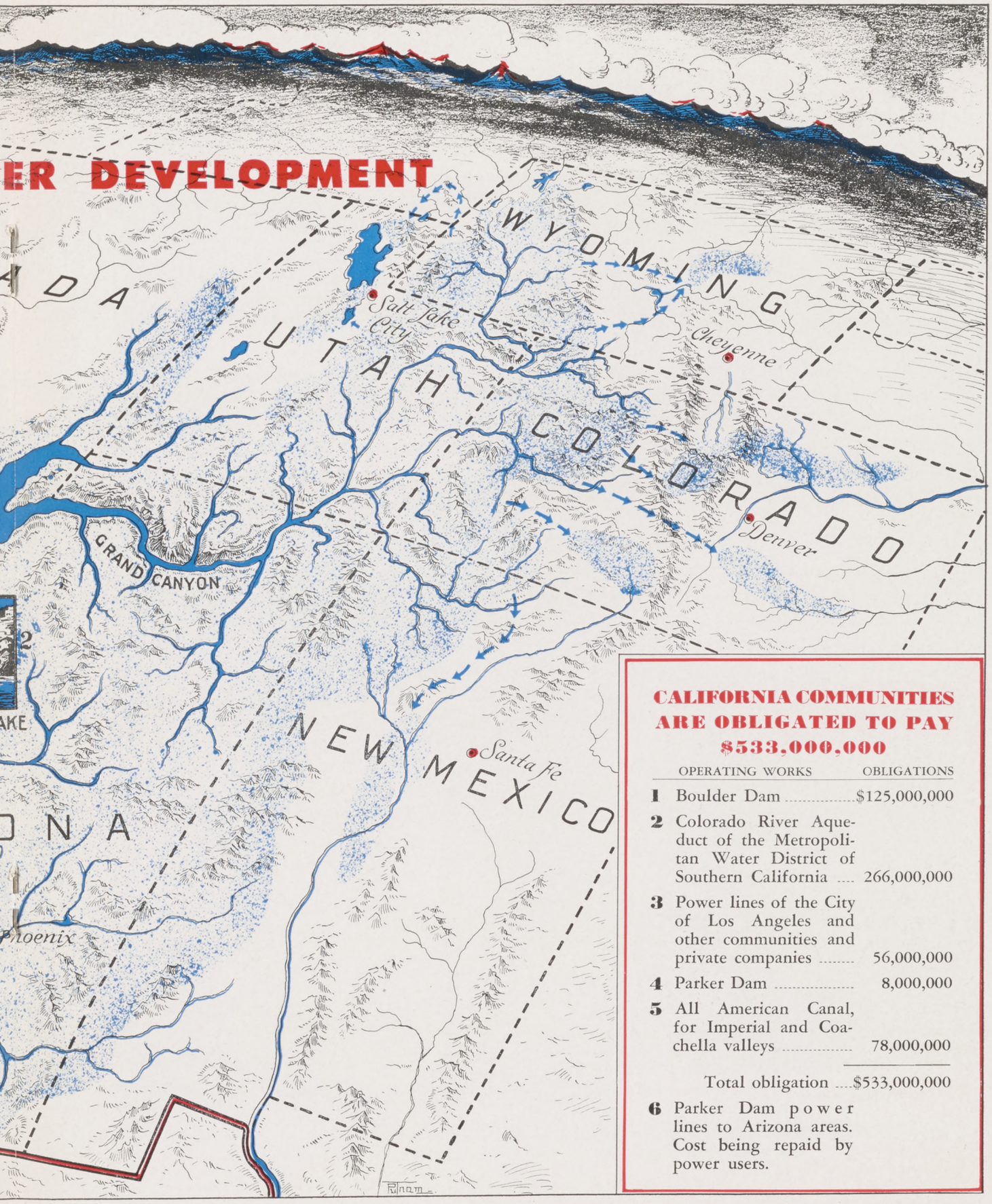




OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

The above photograph and drawing show where the pending treaty proposes to take power revenues away from United States farmers and give the money to Mexican landowners. The power site, it will be noted, is on United States soil. It belongs to United States farmers. Water used to generate the power will come entirely from the United States. (See opposite page)

Perspective Map of Colorado River Showing How It Has Th



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES ARE OBLIGATED TO PAY $533,000,000

	OPERATING WORKS	OBLIGATIONS
1	Boulder Dam	$125,000,000
2	Colorado River Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	266,000,000
3	Power lines of the City of Los Angeles and other communities and private companies	56,000,000
4	Parker Dam	8,000,000
5	All American Canal, for Imperial and Coachella valleys	78,000,000
	Total obligation	$533,000,000
6	Parker Dam power lines to Arizona areas. Cost being repaid by power users.	

Thus Far Been Developed. River Basin Shown in Light Blue

BOULDER DAM

Boulder Dam, standing 727 feet high, has created Lake Mead, largest reservoir in the world. Built at a cost of $125,000,000, it blocks a deep canyon section of the river where it forms the boundary between Arizona and Nevada.

Boulder Dam differs in one important respect from many other river development projects in the United States. It was not built at the expense or risk of the general taxpayers of the country.

Congressional legislation authorizing Boulder Dam provided that before it could be erected, the Secretary of the Interior must obtain firm contracts for the sale of Boulder power sufficient to repay construction costs, plus interest, within 50 years. California communities and private power companies signed such contracts and agreed to pay, and are paying, for fixed quantities of power, whether used or not.

These California communities are thus obligated to pay $575,000,000 to the Government in fulfillment of their contracts. They assumed this heavy obligation because they urgently needed the flood protection provided and the water salvaged and conserved by the dam.

If ratified, the pending treaty would give to Mexican landowners water salvaged by this dam, and thus take from American communities paying for the dam, water they need and in good faith have contracted to take and pay for.

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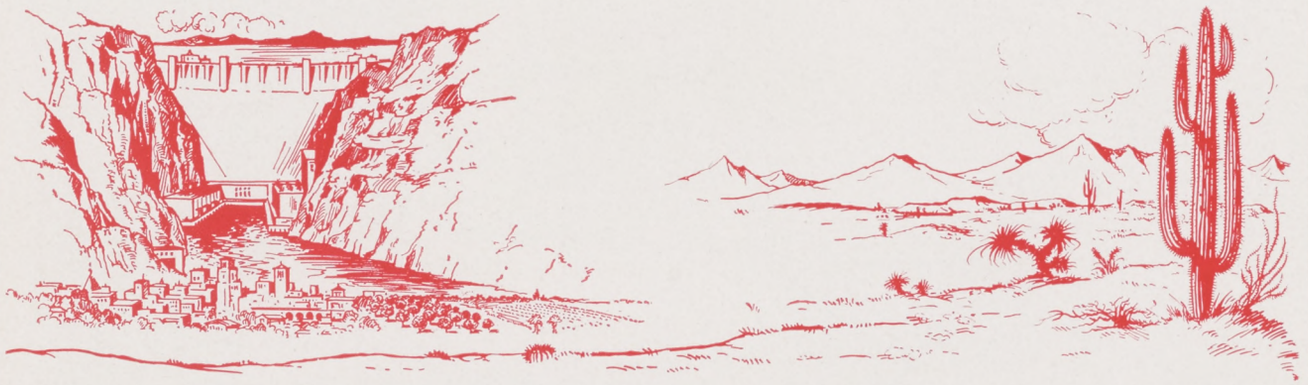
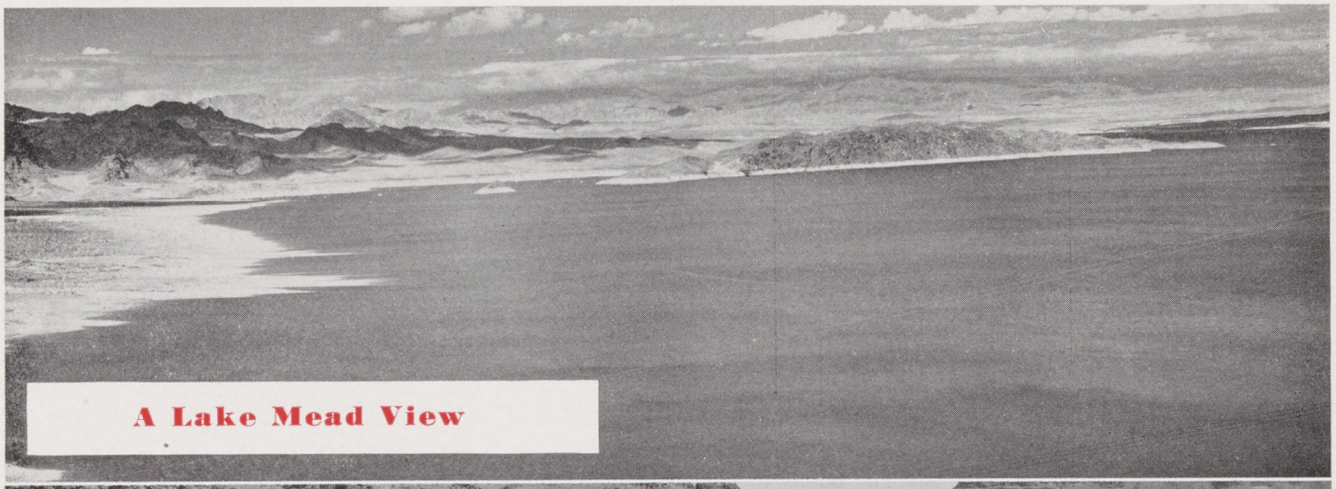
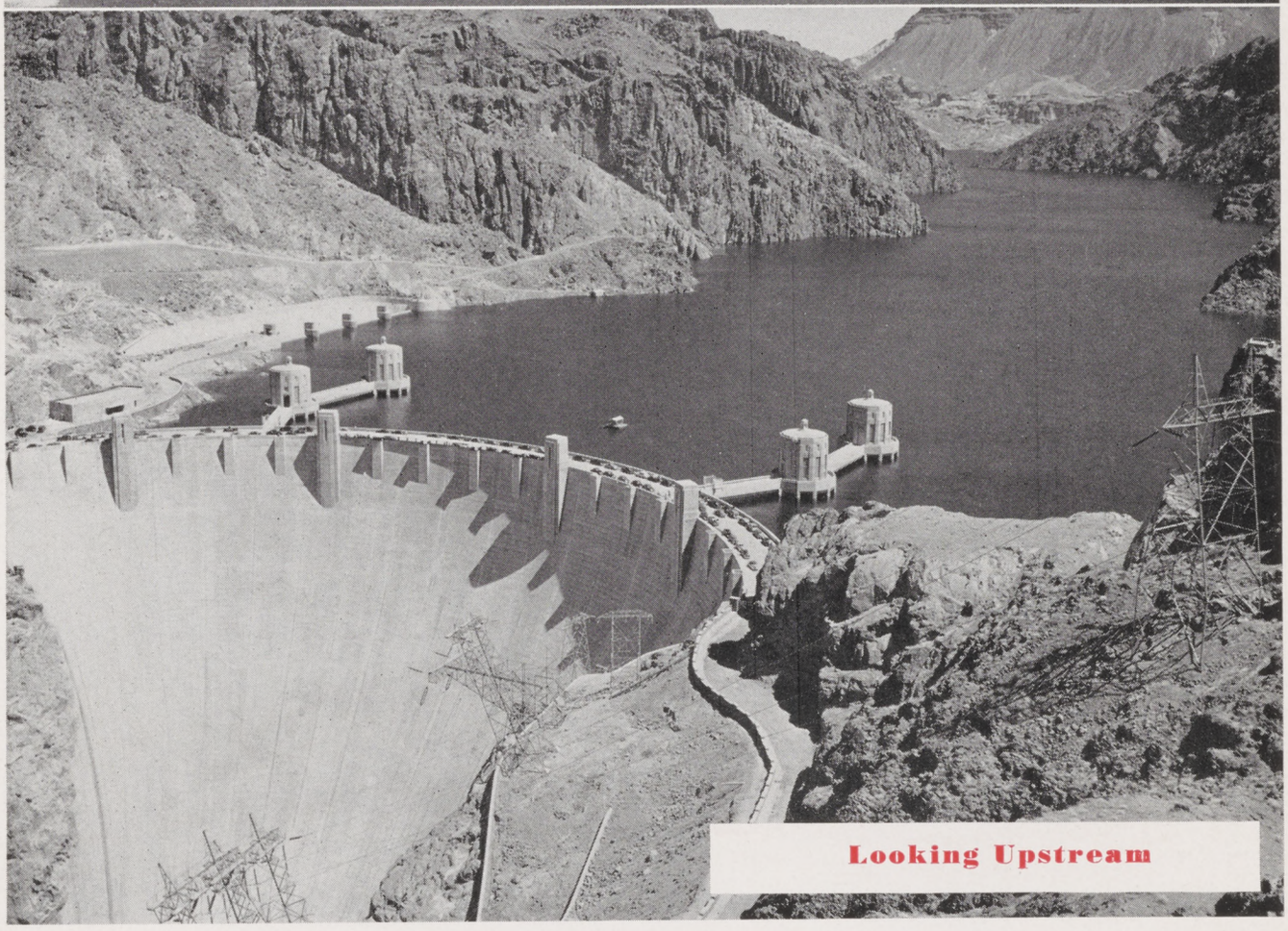


Thus, in a Desert Land, Americans Have Wrought for America

BOULDER DAM



A Lake Mead View



Looking Upstream

ALL AMERICAN CANAL

Near the Mexican border, American farmers find themselves sold down the Colorado River by the pending water treaty.

In California's Imperial Valley prior to Boulder Dam, farmers battled the summer floods of the Colorado River year after year. At a cost of untold millions they built levees higher and higher to protect their homes and crops. To obtain Colorado River water for their farms it was necessary for them to build and maintain at great cost a canal system located for many miles within Mexico.

Congress recognized their plight, and in authorizing Boulder Dam also provided for the All American Canal, an irrigation system which, as its name implies, is located entirely within the United States. Thus it enables farmers in Imperial and Coachella valleys to obtain river water without maintaining delivery canals in Mexico, with attendant penalties, costs and complications.

The canal is built to irrigate 1,000,000 acres of highly productive land. This land grows winter fruits and vegetables to feed Americans in almost every part of the United States. It is known as "America's Winter Garden."

The farmers of Imperial and Coachella valleys are repaying the full cost of the All American Canal. In turn, the United States has contracted to deliver the water needed on these American farms. But the pending treaty ignores these solemn contracts and gives top priority water rights to Mexican landowners just over the boundary from Imperial Valley.

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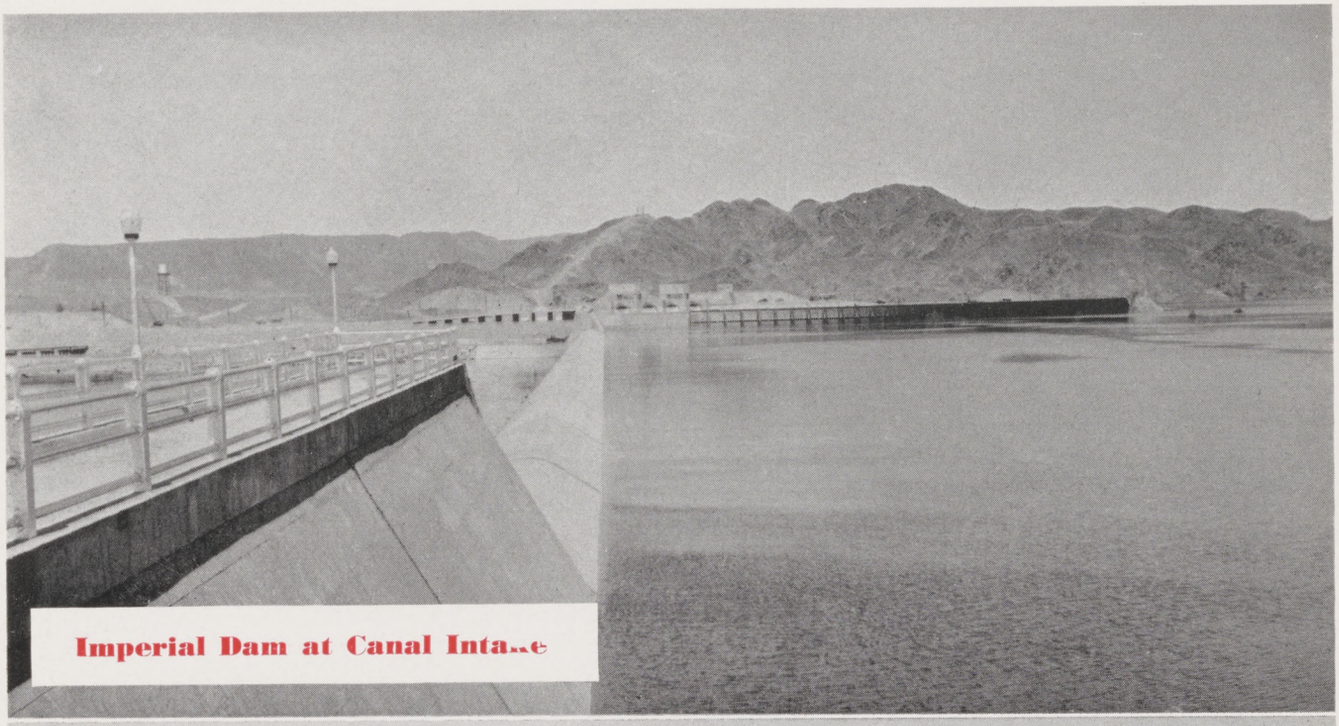
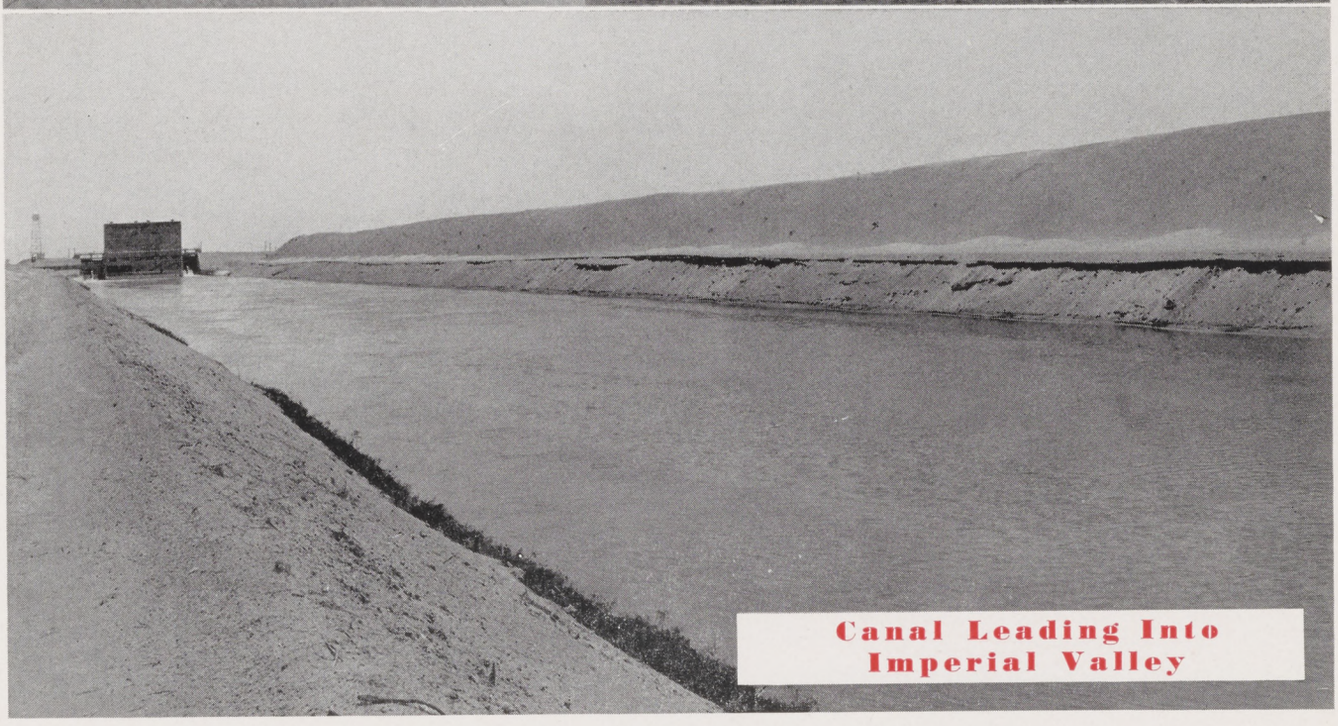
Thus, in a Desert Land, Americans Have Wrought for America

ALL AMERICAN CANAL



Imperial Dam at Canal Intake



Canal Leading Into Imperial Valley

METROPOLITAN AQUEDUCT

America's power in the Pacific is today immeasurably increased because a group of California cities had the courage and foresight to build a 400-mile aqueduct which in these days delivers water from the Colorado River to war industries, war workers and military establishments concentrated on and near the Pacific coast.

This Colorado River Aqueduct was built by Los Angeles and thirteen other cities constituting The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to meet their present and future water requirements. Its cost will be $266,000,000. It is being paid for entirely by the people of these California cities.

More than 3,500,000 people are now living in or immediately adjacent to the Metropolitan Water District cities, and they are becoming increasingly dependent upon the Colorado River Aqueduct as a water supply source. Future security and development in this section of the United States can be assured only by Colorado River water.

Cities within the Metropolitan Water District have obligated themselves to repay, and are repaying, through Boulder Dam power purchases, whether used or not, almost the total cost of Boulder Dam, including interest and other charges.

The Government, in turn, contracted permanently to deliver the Colorado River water required, but the pending Mexican water treaty ignores this solemn contract, and thus dangerously threatens a vital American water supply.

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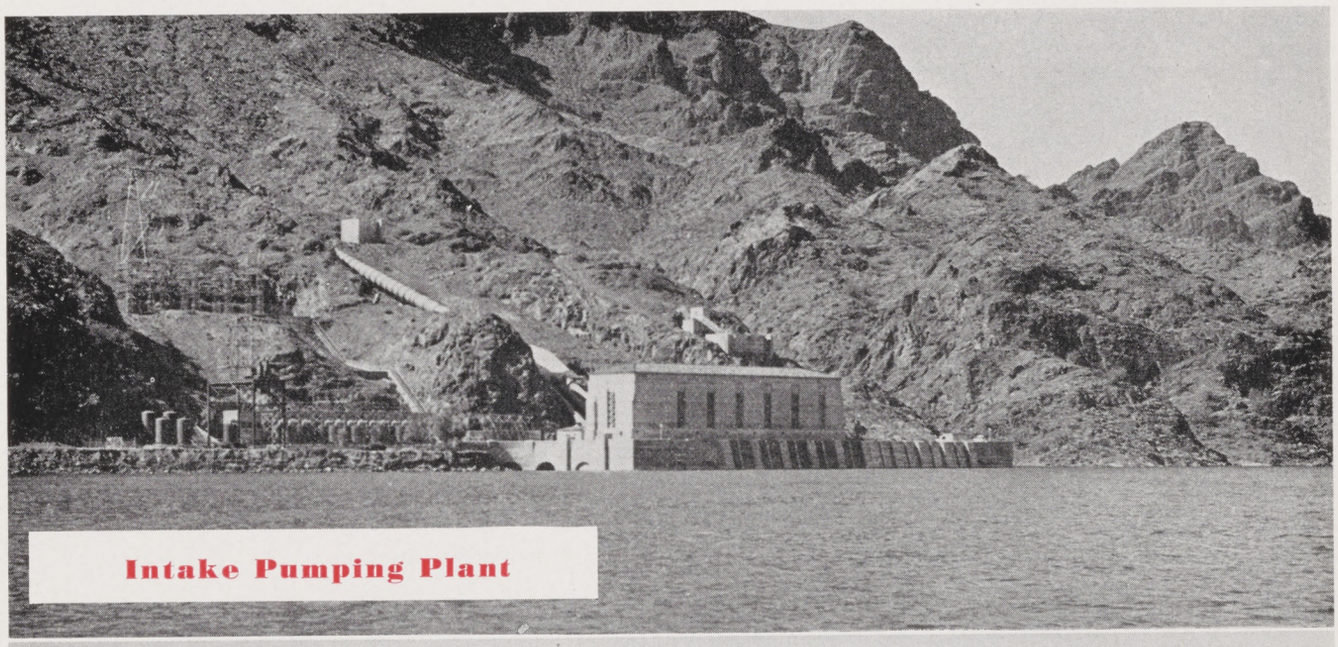
Thus, in a Desert Land, Americans Have Wrought for America

METROPOLITAN AQUEDUCT



Intake Pumping Plant

Lake Mathews,
Terminal Reservoir

BOULDER POWER

Boulder Dam was built only after southern California communities and private companies had signed contracts to buy sufficient Boulder power, whether used or not, to repay, with interest, the cost of the dam. One-fifth the cost of the dam was charged off temporarily to flood control, but this, too, is to be repaid later.

A relatively few American communities, not the United States Government, assumed the financial risks and heavy obligations attendant upon the building of Boulder Dam. Because these communities were willing to assume such risks, the United States at the outbreak of war found itself prepared with a large block of electric power in the Southwest. The present generating capacity of Boulder power plant is 1,870,000 horsepower. This power is being used to support the nation's vast military establishments and its industries in southern California.

This southern California area is a strategic and vitally important sector of America's Pacific front. Within this zone is centered more than half of all the war industrial production of the entire Pacific coast. Its basic industries include oil refineries, aircraft factories, naval and cargo shipyards, steel mills, and synthetic rubber plants.

If these California communities are to continue to meet their heavy Boulder Dam obligations and if they are to continue to support a large part of America's Pacific front, then they must retain their rights to a fair share of water from the Colorado River. Today, these rights are jeopardized by the Mexican treaty.

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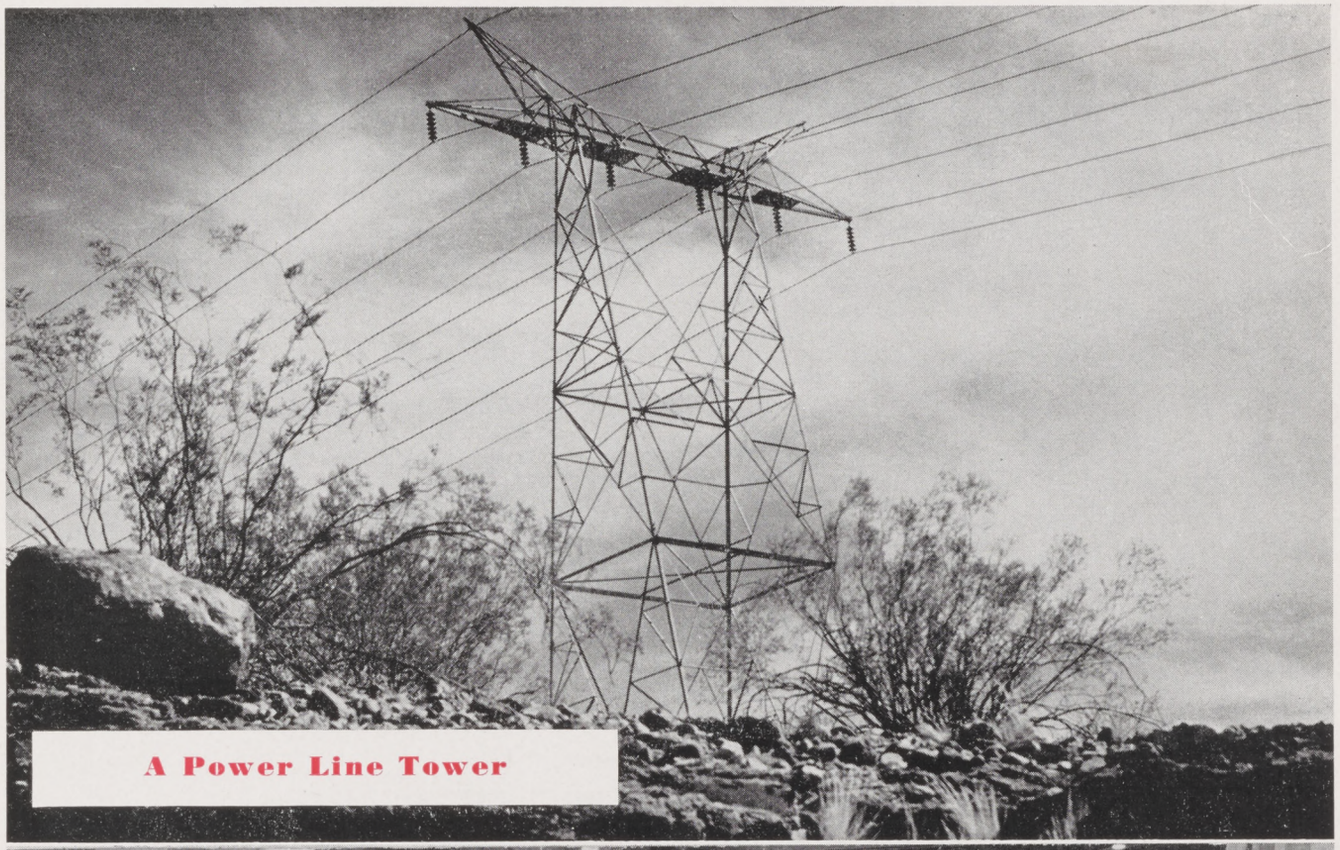
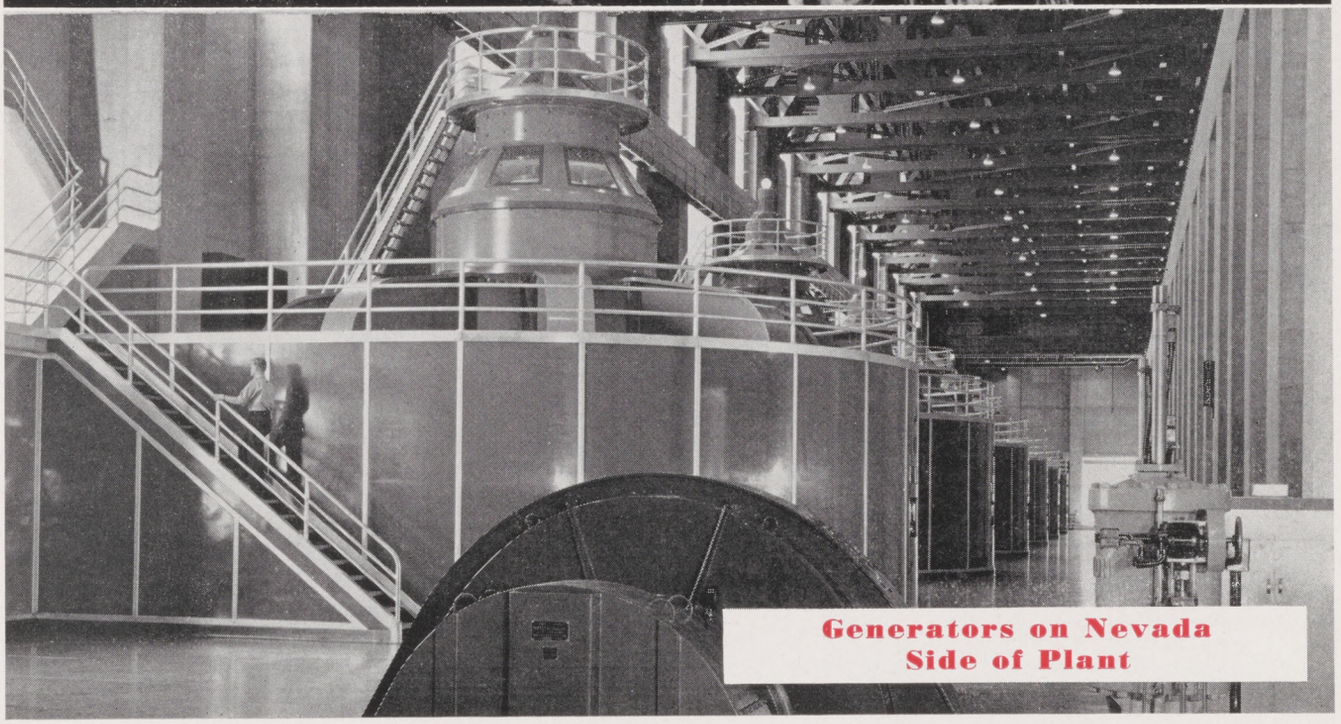
Thus, in a Desert Land, Americans Have Wrought for America

BOULDER POWER PLANT



A Power Line Tower



Generators on Nevada Side of Plant

PARKER DAM

Parker Dam, located 150 miles downstream from Boulder Dam, is a major water regulating and power producing structure on the Colorado River. It protects Mexican as well as United States lands from flash floods from the Bill Williams River, a tributary flowing into the Colorado below Boulder Dam.

A large water storage and regulating reservoir was created by Parker Dam. On the California shoreline of this reservoir, two miles upstream from the dam, is the Intake of the Colorado River Aqueduct built by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The dam also provided opportunity to develop about 135,000 horsepower of electric energy. This Parker power is now serving the critical needs of large areas in Arizona and southeastern California.

Parker Dam was built with money supplied almost entirely by the California cities constituting The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

California's cities invested their money in Parker Dam because it was needed as a part of their aqueduct system, and because the United States Government had contracted to deliver to them Colorado River water they urgently needed. This water delivery pledge of the United States Government is violated by the pending Mexican treaty in its guarantee of 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water to Mexican landowners.

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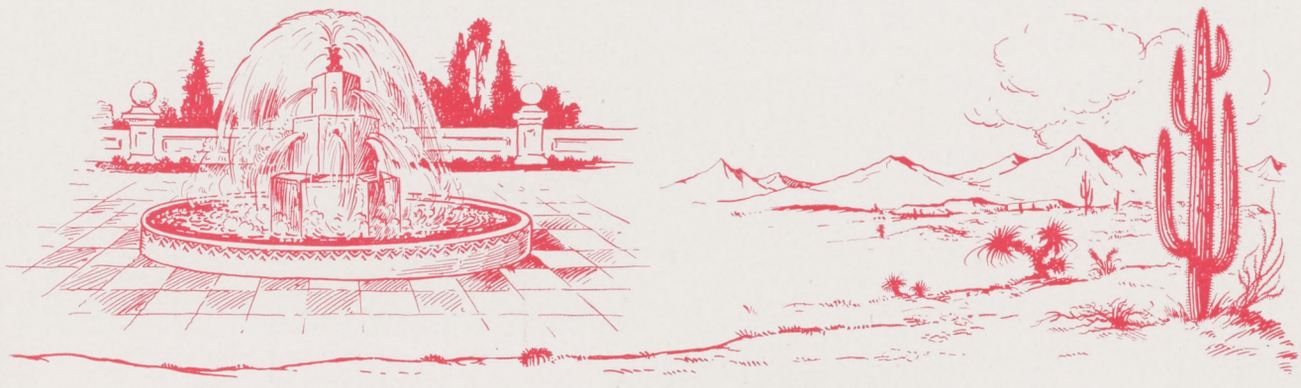
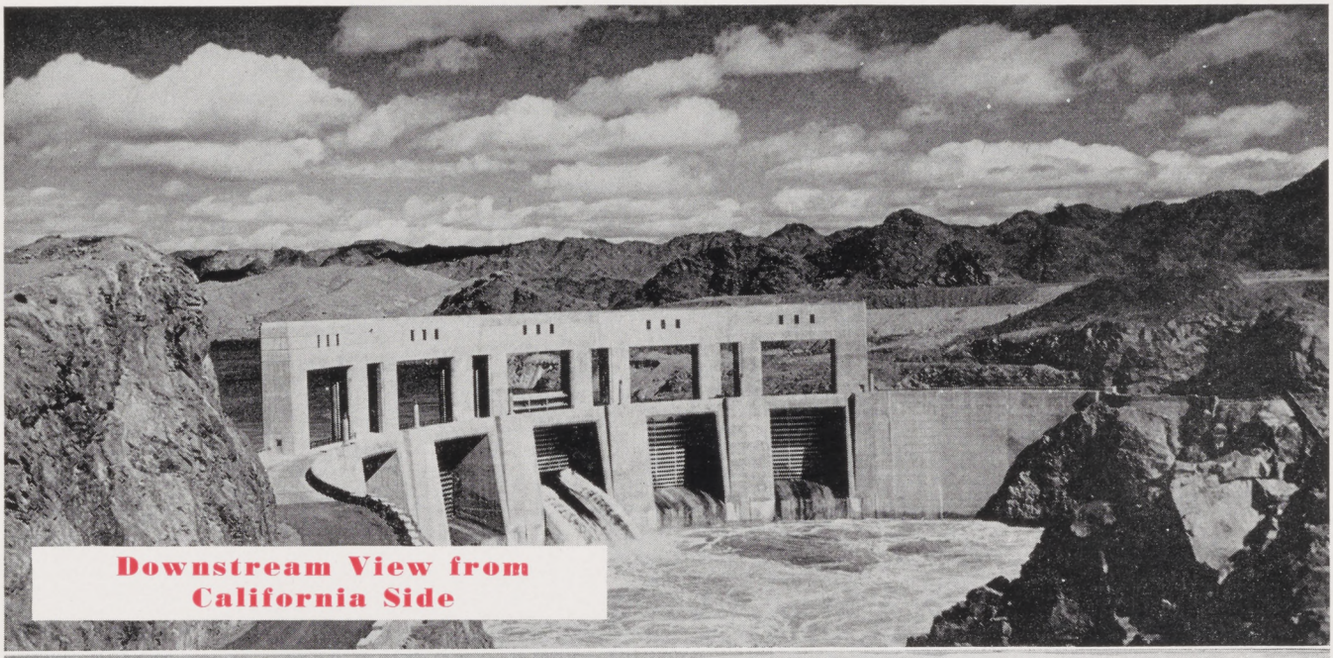
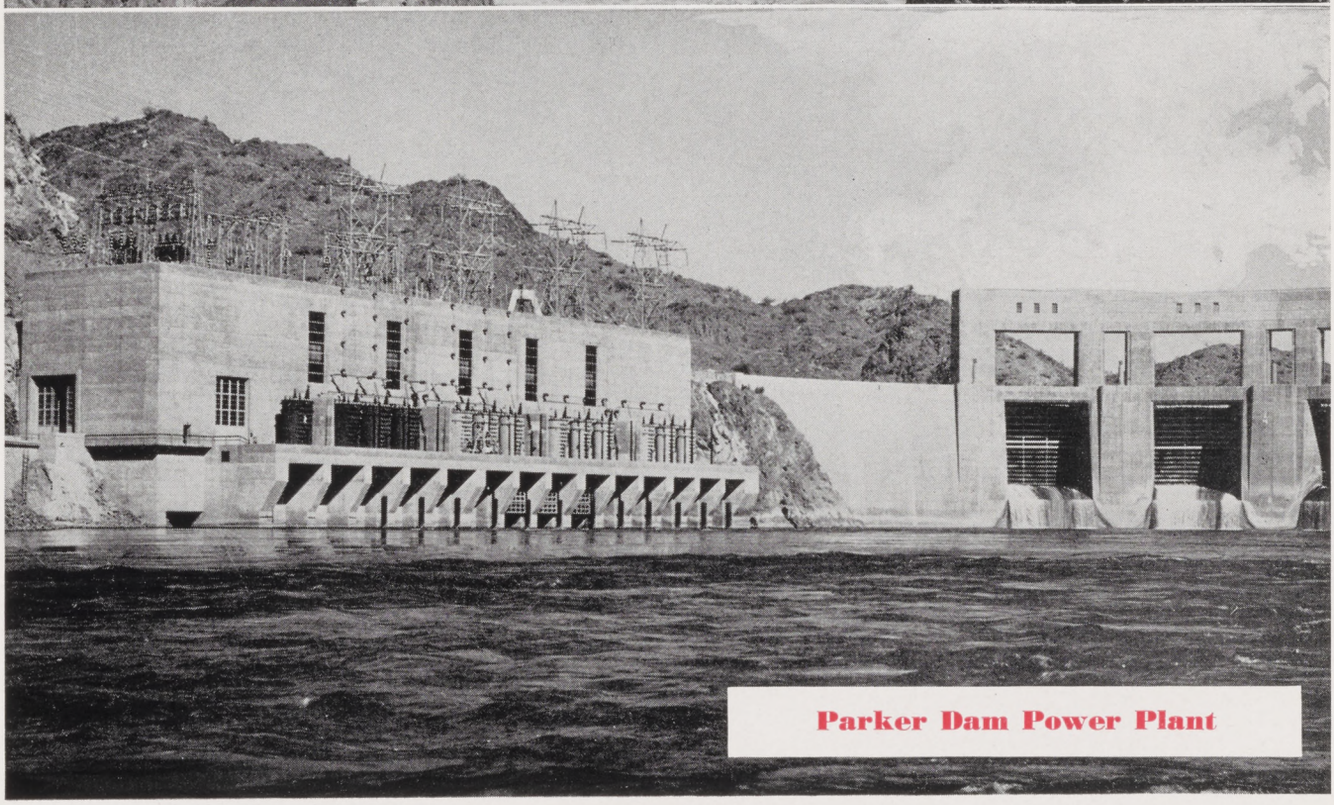


Thus, in a Desert Land, Americans Have Wrought for America

PARKER DAM



Downstream View from
California Side



Parker Dam Power Plant

WATER SHORTAGE

The total water supply of the Colorado River is subject to alternating wet and dry cycles of from 7 to 11 years. It is estimated by the Bureau of Reclamation upon studies of stream-flow over a 44-year period, that the average outflow from Boulder Dam, in the future, during critical dry cycles extending over ten or more years, will be 8,500,000 acre feet per year. The supply and draft thereon is estimated as follows:

Supply	*Acre Feet*
Outflow from Boulder Dam	8,500,000
Reservoir and other river losses below Boulder Dam	600,000
Available for use	7,900,000
Requirements	
Nevada Contract	300,000
California Contracts	5,362,000
Arizona Contracts	2,800,000
Proposed Mexican Treaty	1,500,000
Total	9,962,000
Available Supply	7,900,000
Requirements	9,962,000
Overdraft	2,062,000

As far back as 1928, Congress foresaw an eventual shortage in the water supply of the lower Colorado River, and the Act authorizing Boulder Dam specifically provides that water salvaged and stored by the dam shall be used "exclusively within the United States."

FAIR ALLOTMENT FAVORED

California favors a just and fair allotment of Colorado River water to Mexico. The proposed treaty guarantee of 1,500,000 acre feet annually is unjustified by reason of existing and historic conditions, and is unfair to United States citizens whose long established water contracts would be violated. The maximum amount of Colorado River water which Mexico ever did or ever could take and use prior to Boulder Dam was 750,000 acre feet annually. That is just half the amount guaranteed for all time by the proposed treaty.

The Back Cover. The photographs are of scenes in Southern California. They include an orange grove, a section of downtown Los Angeles, a glimpse of a typical factory, and several views of agricultural production in the Imperial Valley.

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Maps and Illustrations
by
CLAUDE G. PUTNAM

3M 1-45 D.J.K.

The Mexican Water Treaty casts its dark shadow over American cities, farms and factories. It is reaching out to grab, and give to landowners in Mexico, Colorado River water which comes entirely from the United States and is pledged to and vitally needed by United States Communities.